

Environmental Assessment

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks purchase of 7
sections of Dawson County owned land within
Makoshika State Park**

August 6, 2002

MEPA / NEPA / HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed Action:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks purchase of 7 sections of Dawson County owned land within Makoshika State Park

2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (23-1-102 MCA).

3. **Name of Project:** Dawson County owned land purchase within Makoshika State Park

4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue
PO Box 200701
Helena, Montana 59620-0701
(406) 444-3750

Makoshika State Park
1301 Snyder Avenue
PO Box 1242
Glendive, Montana 59330-1242
(406) 365-6256

5. **If Applicable:**

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date:

Estimated Completion Date:

Current Status of Project Design (% complete):

6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, township and range):**

Dawson County; T15N, R55E

Legal description(s):

All Section 5, T15N, R55E
All Section 7, T15N, R55E
All Section 13, T15N, R55E
All Section 19 T, 15N, R55E
All Section 21, T15N, R55E
All Section 23, T15N, R56E
All Section 29, T15N, R56E

Total Acres affected: 4,480

7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

- (a) Developed:
 - residential.....0.00 acres
 - industrial.....0.00 acres
- (b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation.....4,480 acres
- (c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas.....0.00 acres
- (d) Floodplain.....0.00 acres
- (e) Productive:
 - irrigated cropland.....0.00 acres
 - dry cropland.....0.00 acres
 - forestry.....0.00 acres
 - rangeland.....0.00 acres
 - other.....0.00 acres

8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

See Map Attachment

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.

An agreement between Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and Dawson County would allow for the purchase of up to 7 sections, or 4,480 acres, of Dawson County owned land. The purchase would also include surface and mineral acquisition. FWP would purchase these properties for \$20,000 per section for a purchase price up to \$140,000. The total number of sections purchased would be dependent upon Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks available funding. The minimum purchase will be five sections for \$100,000.

The Dawson County land contained in this purchase is arid, rugged badlands topography, which is not suitable for farming or forest production. Recreation is the most beneficial use of this land. This property is currently managed as an integral part of Makoshika State Park through agreement with Dawson County.

The proposed land purchase would consolidate the land ownership rights of the existing easement to FWP and protect the natural resources of Makoshika State Park, by protecting the surface resources within the park from any disturbance related to oil and gas exploration or extraction.

10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

Agency Name Permit Date Filed/#

N/A

(b) Funding:

Agency Name Funding Amount

N/A

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name Type of Responsibility

Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Parks Division

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks – Parks Divisions
Dawson County Commissioners

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comment Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
< a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				
< c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- α Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- αα Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. AIR Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comment Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
< a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		x				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. For P-R/D-I projects , will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regulations? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

2a. There will be no emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality as a result of this purchase.

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- α Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- αα Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comment Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
< a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				3a
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		x				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. For P-R/D-J , will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
m. For P-R/D-J , will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3a. The water quality will not be effected as it relates to this purchase.

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ∅ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ∅∅ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comment Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. For P-R/D-J , will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ∠ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ∠∠ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

5. FISH/WILDLIFE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comment Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of non-game species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. For P-R/D-J , will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				
i. For P-R/D-J , will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS	IMPACT ³	Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comment Index
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- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ∅ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ∅∅ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

Will the proposed action result in:					Be Mitigated ³	
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		X				
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

- ⊃ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ⌂ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ⌂⌂ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comment Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				7a
b. Conflicts with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				7b
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

7a. The county has historically allowed grazing on various sections they own, however none of the county owned properties FWP proposes to purchase have current grazing leases.

7b. The Proposed Action compliments the land use directives for Montana State Parks.

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ∠ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ∠∠ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comment Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. For P-R/D-I , will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ∠ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ∠∠ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comment Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?			X			9c
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 9c. The distribution of employment may be altered by the proposed action by precluding jobs and income related to energy exploration, however, Park protection may result in additional tourism related jobs in Glendive or Dawson County. These jobs are likely to be seasonal in nature and alter or increase personal income for students and people entering the work force and development.

3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

< Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

∠ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

∠∠ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comment Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: _____		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				10b
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?		X				
< e. Define projected revenue sources		X				
< f. Define projected maintenance costs.		X				
g. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10b. The preferred action may preclude the collection of County taxes. Because these properties are arid, rugged badlands topography, which is not suitable for farming or forest production, and if sold to the private sector, tax revenue would most likely be minimal.

Should the county properties be suitable for oil and gas exploration, the state and county could loose the potential of natural resource taxes. These taxes are based upon a percentage of the gross sales of the natural resources. Historically due to the topography of the area, this resource tax revenue would be minimal.

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ∠ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ∠∠ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comment Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
<c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				11c
d. For P-R/D-J , will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 11c. The proposed purchase will most likely enhance recreational opportunities for Makoshika's visitors, however, the impact of the "No Action" could result in degradation of the scenic landscapes and vistas within the park. Specifically the no action alternative would allow for exploration and development of oil and gas wells on these county owned sections.

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ∅ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ∅∅ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comment Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
<a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				12a
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. For P-R/D-J , will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

12a. There won't be any destruction or alteration to the site nor should the prehistoric, historic or paleontological resources be effected.

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ∅ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ∅∅ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT ³				Can Impact Be Mitigated ³	Comment Index
	Unknown ³	None	Minor ³	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources, which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. For P-R/D-J , is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)						
g. For P-R/D-J , list any federal or state permits required.						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

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- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ∅ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ∅∅ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider, and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Proposed Alternatives

Alternative A: (Proposed Action) Purchase of 7 sections of Dawson County-owned land within Makoshika State Park: An agreement between Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and Dawson County would allow for the purchase of up to 7 sections, or 4,480 acres, of Dawson County-owned land (surface and minerals), for \$20,000 per section, for a purchase price up to \$140, 000. The total number of sections purchased would be dependent upon Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks available funding. The minimum purchase would be five sections for a purchase price of \$100,000.

Alternative B: (No Action) This alternative involves no action by FWP; i.e., the State would not purchase lands owned by Dawson County and continue managing these properties through a easement for recreational use. The state legislature and FWP's parks division have made a commitment to eastern Montana and Makoshika State Park with respect to recreational opportunities. Should these said sections not be purchased by FWP it leaves the potential for the County to sell them to the private sector or the potential to pursue future gas and mineral exploration. The public resources of the park would be vulnerable to the decision of the County.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

N/A

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? **No**

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

An EIS is not required. There will be no significant impacts to the natural or human environment. An EA is sufficient for the analysis of impacts of the proposed action.

5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

The notice of this assessment will be published in the Glendive Ranger-Review, Helena Independent Record and the statewide electronic bulletin board.

A public meeting could be held if requested.

A thirty-day comment period provides involvement by written comment. This level of public involvement is appropriate given the circumstances of this proposal.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

Review copies of the EA will be mailed to appropriate agencies, government officials, and nonprofit natural resource groups. The public will be notified in the following manners to comment on the environmental assessment and the proposed action and alternatives:

- ! 2 legal notices: One notice published in both these newspapers: Ranger Review and Helena Independent Record.
- ! 1 legal notice on Montana's Electronic Bulletin Board
- ! 30 day comment period following publication of second legal notice

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Dale Carlson	Montana State Parks
State Makoshika	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1301 Snyder Avenue	1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 1242	P.O. Box 200701
Glendive, Montana 59330-1242	Helena, Montana 59620-0701
(406) 377-6256	(406) 444-3750

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

Why purchase the 7 sections of County-owned land within Makoshika State Park?

This property is currently managed as an integral part of Makoshika State Park. The proposed action would consolidate the land ownership rights of the existing recreation easement between FWP and Dawson County. Also, by purchasing this property it reduces or eliminates disturbance of these properties by the potential impacts of oil and gas exploration and development.

August 14, 2002

To: Environmental Quality, P O Box 200901, Helena, MT 59260-0901

Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Director's Office

Park's Division

Fisheries Division

Wildlife Division

Regional Supervisors, R-1, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6, R-7

Legal Unit

Montana Historical Society, SHPO, P O Box 201202, Helena, MT, 59620-1202

State Library, POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620-1800

Jim Jensen, MT Environmental Info. Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 924, Helena, MT 59624

Bud Clinch, DNRC, POB 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601

Montana Wildlife Federation PO Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624

Montana Parks Association, POB 699, Billings, MT 59103

Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, POB 728, Libby, MT 59923

George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624

Dawson County Commissioners, Dawson County Court House, Glendive, MT 59330

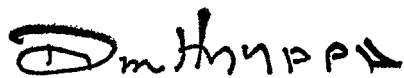
Ladies and Gentleman,

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks purchase of 7 sections of Dawson County owned land within Makoshika State Park and is submitted for your consideration.

Questions and comments will be accepted until September 13, 2002. If you have any questions, feel free to contact John Little, Parks Manager, at (406) 232-0923. All comments may be sent to the undersigned.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Hyypa". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "D" and a trailing flourish.

Don Hyypa
Regional Supervisor
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks